

Do you struggle to read or know an adult who does?

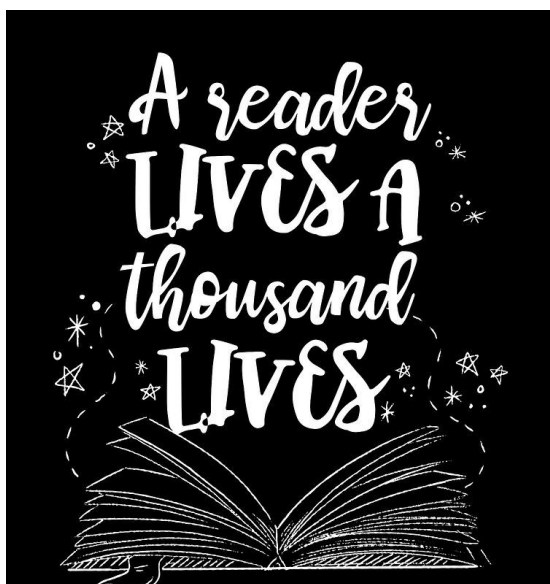
Let one of us know, we can help support you discretely

Visit the [Gov.uk site for improving your English skills](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/improving-adult-literacy)

Contact Shrewsbury College and ask about their **functional English skills course** 01743 342333

[Learn Direct](https://www.learn-direct.org/) provides online courses and a network of learning centres. Call 0800 101 901 for advice and information on their adult literacy courses

We will be providing an audio version of this leaflet to put on Seesaw and on our website.



Reading Matters



A guide for Parents

Reading Matters



As a school, we are exceptionally passionate about reading and our children read exceptionally well—95% of our Y6s reached the Expected standard or above, compared to 73% Nationally.

Reading well is the key stone to accessing information **and** to opening up a whole new world which we may never otherwise experience.

Parents play a vital role in developing a love of reading:

“Parents who engage their children in books prepare them to become committed and enthusiastic readers: they can transform their attitudes to reading. Their children learn to focus and share the enjoyment of the story; they learn how stories start and finish, and how a plot unravels and is resolved; they learn that books can transport them elsewhere.”

The Reading Framework, Department For Education, 2023

Sharing books exposes your children to rich and varied vocabulary. Children with a rich and varied vocabulary are far more likely to reach their full potential in terms of academia **and** mental health and wellbeing.

By the time your child is 5 years old...

If they are never read to they will have heard 4662 words

If they are read to 1-2 times per week, they will have heard 63, 570 words

If they are read to 3–5 times per week, they will have heard 169,520 words

If they are read to daily, they will have heard 296,660 words

Science Daily (2019)

Build reading into your daily lives:

- Share a book a bedtime
- Let your children see you read
- Pack books for a trip rather than (or as well as!) the iPad
- Listen to audiobooks (they are free via the Library Service)
- Let your child share the same book over and over again

What can you do to help?

Engage with our Reading programme:

- Listen to your child read regularly
- Practise sounds cards and engage with suggested games and activities
- Write in your child's Reading Record and complete the Reading Map—they can then earn free books
- Attend phonics sessions or watch on Seesaw
- Ask your child's class teacher for help or support

When listening to your child read, or when sharing a book:

- Let your child pause, think about and comment on the pictures.
- If you think your child did not understand something, try to explain: 'Oh! I think what's happening here is that...'
- Chat about the story and pictures: 'I wonder why she did that?'; 'Oh no, I hope she's not going to...'; 'I wouldn't have done that, would you?'
- Link the stories to your own family experiences: 'This reminds me of when ...'
- Link stories to others that your child knows: 'Ah! Do you remember the dragon in? Do you remember what happened to him?'
- Encourage your child to join in with the bits they know.
- Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.
- Make reading aloud feel like a treat. Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so you can both see the book.
- Show curiosity about what you're going to read: 'This book looks interesting. It's about an adventure on a river. I wonder what happens?'
- Read through the whole story the first time without stopping too much. Let the story weave its own magic.
- Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.